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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar II, Reeder, Chairman

UCC Building - P. O. Box 1728 - Helena, Montana

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 234.

character 4

SEPTEMBER, 1962

Montana Employment Keeps At Good Level

Howard N. Hebert, Commissioner

Wage earners on August payrolls of the state's non-farm employers were estimated at 177,500 according to preliminary figures prepared by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A gain of 900 is shown both over last month and August of last year. The average August non-farm employment for the past ten years is 174,200. Employment has but 2,300 to go to equal the all-time record of 179,-800 set in August, 1956. Normally, employment in the state is highest during August. Favorable weather conditions and continued active forces in construction, lumbering and logging, and the trade and service industries could bring a higher employment figure during September.

Four Industries Gain

Good month-to-month gains were noted in four of the eight basic major industry groups. The largest employment in increment was in the trade industries where the peak of summer tourist traffic and the start of back to school buying boosted employment by 600. Employment in manufacturing rose by 500 with all of the gain in the durable goods group. The service industry payrolls were up 300 from July. Construction payrolls were up 200 to a total of 15,500. Employment in all mining, transportation, communications and utilities, and finance, insurance and real estate units remained the same as in July. Government employment declined by 700 with most of the decrease at the local level.

AUGUST HIRING SHRINKS LABOR RESERVE AS STATE APPROACHES EMPLOYMENT PEAK

Montana's labor market pushed toward the peak of the employment season in August with no really acute shortages of labor and 7,460 job applicants in the labor pool. This was 3,495 fewer jobseekers than in July, but 1,617 more than the average August jobseeker count of the past ten years. During August 4,136 new jobseekers were registered compared with 5,321 in July and a ten year August average of 3,718.

August hiring was scattered over a wide array of industries. Job placements in industry and farm totalled 10,426. The state's industrial employers listed 4,968 job openings with the 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service.

Farm Front Active

A wide array of agricultural activities kept many thousands of farm workers busy during August. Work in the grain fields was nearly done. Upcoming are the sweet corn, potato, sugar beet, and Christmas tree harvests. Some farm labor shortages developed during the month and still exist in a few areas. Inmigration of transient farm workers was below former years.

Roundup Coal Mine Closes

Ten years ago, three major coal mines were operating in Roundup employing over 300 men. Today, there are none. The announced closure this month of the last major coal mine brought an end to an era. One of the first to go was the Republic Coal Company which closed in 1956 after 47 years of operation. Its closure made a ghost town of the once lively camp of Klein. Other familiar names in the coal industry, the Jeffries Coal Company, and the Bair-Collins Company, are but reminders of the good old days when coal was king. The coal-fired steam locomotive is a relic of the past. Natural gas and oil have replaced

coal, both in home and industry. The problem is a serious one for the coal miners, who, for the most part, know no other trade. A half dozen or so small truck mines remain in the Roundup area. Many of them are family operations which require little additional help.

Butte Labor Dispute Over

For the second time since the start of the Butte Teamsters' dispute on July 16, underground mining operations in Butte ground to a halt. The first shutdown lasted nine days until a district court order restrained picketing by the Teamsters. A Montana Supreme Court decision reversed the district court order. The situation remained relatively calm until September 17th when picketing resumed and the mines were closed, idling 2,500. Negotiations between the Teamsters and the Anaconda Company resumed September 19th. Several days later an agreement was reached and the idled workers started to return to their jobs on September 21st. After nine weeks and a wage loss of nearly \$2 million, the Teamsters' dispute was finally over,

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

SEPARATION RATE ACCESSION RATE Total New Hire Total Quit Layoff INDUSTRY 1) Jul 2) Jun July July June July June July July June July July June July 1962 1962 1961 1962 1962 1961 1962 1962 1961 1962 1961 1962 1962 1961 4.2 4.7 3) All Manufacturing..... 3.8 3.5 3.7 3.5 2.0 1.0 4.2 3.2 2.0 4.6 7.1 2.1 1.3 8.6 3.8 4.0 Durable Goods..... 1.1 1.8 2.4 1.1 6.0 1.1 2.6 Primary Metal..... 6.5.6 44 .8 1 () 3.0 2.4 2.9 20 Nondurable Goods...... 3.1 3.5 2.1 3.2 1.8 1.5 7.0 9.8 6.5 3.0 10 All Mining..... 6.6 1.6 4.1 1.1 8.8 5.8 1.5 3.6 Metal Mining.....

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time.
 Figures revised on more complete returns.
 Excludes sugar and canning industries.
 Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Sept. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(557 jobs, ekers, 45 new, 428 men, 129 women). Over 700 smelter and railroad workers remain idle as a result of Teamster's dispute at Butte. Unrelated mining layoffs in Philipsburg area adds to unemployment list. Trade and service industries starting to feel effects of economy weakened by Butte labor dispute. Farm hiring slow.

BH.LINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,619 jobseckers, 766 new, 991 men, 628 women). Imployment in most industry groups at high levels during August. Work on major construction projects at rapid pace in light of good weather, including \$5 million in highway work, \$12 million sewer project, \$1 million motel, and \$100 million Yellowtail Dam near Hardin. Slight increase noted in trade and service employment as tourist traffic continued and back to school buying began. Start of sweet corn harvest and canning operations gave employment to 60 Indians in the fields and 150 other workers at the cannery. Sugar beet harvest slated to start late September.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(177 jobseekers, 205 new, 67 men, 110 women). Good economic trends prevail in most industries including construction, logging and sawmills, trade and service, and manufacturing. Over \$7 million in highway and building projects in progress. Major sawmill on steady schedule with 115 workers. Trident cement plant building toward full capacity operations. Trade and service trends active.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,376 jobseckers, 187 new, 991 men, 385 women). Unsettled labor dispute between Learnsters and Anaconda Company keeps open pit mining operations closed. Possible shutdown of underground mining and smelter operations seen if dispute prolonged, affecting 6,500. Main street employers trimming payrolls as business slackens. Larm hiring down, but potato harvest to begin in late September.

CUT BANK - (167 jobseekers, 118 new, 112 men, 55 women). August job placements totaled 160, with 69 placements in industry and 91 in agriculture. Construction layoffs and in-migration of transients accounted for most new unemployment. City street improvement to start during September; other construction slowing down. Harvest nearly half completed.

DILLON = (44 jobseekers, 71 new, 25 men, 19 women). Labor market activity continues strong both in industry and farm. Variety of construction projects totaling nearly 59 million, working at good speed.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment-	1962	1962	1961	1953-62
	Aug.	July	Aug.	Aug. Avg.
Industrial Employment	177,500	176,600	176,600	174,200
New Job Applicants Job Applicants, End of Month	4,136	5,321	3,731	3,718
	7,460	10,955	9,759	5,843
Insured Unemployment, Week of	1962 Sept. 9	1962 Aug. 3	1961 Sept. 8	Avg. 1st 1958-62 Sept. Wk.
New and Renewal Claims	451	775	710	755
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,558	3,041	2,856	3,260
Total Unemployment Claims	3,009	3,816	3,566	4,016

Some major projects working two shifts. Oiling of 8 miles of new highway completed. Trade and service volume at normal levels.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(161 jobseekers, 156 new, 69 men, 92 women). Improved economic conditions over last year reflected in a 50% drop in jobseekers and a 33% cut in the number of unemployment claims from August, 1961. Air base construction employment of 250 expected to remain constant through September. Increased job hiring noted in trade, government, private households and agriculture.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(147 jobseekers, 72 new, 79 men, 68 women). Area construction, including courthouse, high school, two clinics, and highway projects, making good progress but with only limited hiring. Work of replacing new footings under new bridge spanning Yellowstone River began. Hay and small grain crops best of record.

GREAT FALLS, Chotean, Fort Benton, Stanford—(921 jobseekers, 749 new, 489 men, 432 women). Hiring in most industries set a steady pace during August, a trend expected to continue through September. Trade, service, and manufacturing industries provided most job orders. Installation work at missile site projects created heavy demand for mechanics, technicians, and other classifications. Over 1,000 workers placed in harvest and other farm activities.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(117 jobseekers, 49 new, 86 men, 31 women). Jobseeker files reduced substantially by withdrawal of many women from the labor market and start of the school term. Lumbering and logging shows brisk activity with double shifts on some projects. New building projects totaling about \$1 million gives added boost. Strawberry, raspberry, and sour cherry harvest yields less than last year.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(75 jobseekers, 66 new, 49 men, 26 women). Industry job placements topped July figures, but showed slight decline from last year. Construction employment rose, but drops in

trade and government employment were evident. Railroad employment fairly steady but no new hires expected. Better crops and a longer harvest season this year made more farm jobs.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs— (259 jobseekers, 183 new, 155 men, 104 women). Labor market trends generally good but with some early signs of seasonal declines starting to show. Scattered layoffs noted in construction and service industries. Workers in sales, clerical, and lumbering classifications in short supply. Farm labor demand steady but not spectacular.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(487 jobseekers, 401 new 353 men, 134 women). Jobseeker count declined for 4th consecutive month in the face of increased hiring in construction, lumber manufacturing, and service and trade industries. Most unemployed are in semi-skilled and unskilled classifications. Cherry harvest and processing completed; potato harvest to start by October 1.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(67 jobseekers, 95 new, 45 men, 22 women). Labor market trends in industry and farm at good levels. Construction and trade industries led the hiring lines. Construction chiefly concentrated on missile sites and highway projects. Grain harvest produced good yields.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(69 jobseekers, 44 new, 33 men, 36 women). Shortages of workers in lumbering and service classifications continued throughout the month. Construction continued at good pace with no labor shortages. Very little hiring at railroad shops or for outside work. Farm hiring up substantially with bumper hay crop and adequate labor supply.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(96 jobseekers, 86 new, 63 men, 33 women). Economic climate appears considerably brighter than last year. Steadily improving trend evident in trade and service establishments. Completion of most major highway work in area noted, but

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1954	143.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159,9	164.8
19" -	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
10.50	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	160.0	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
197()	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	170 9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1901	156.9	154.8	156.0	159.5	164.6	173.9	175.2	176.6	174.6	171.6	167.3	164.2	166.2
1'11,2	158.1	158.0	159.0	164.5	170.4	178.2	176.6	177.5**					

^{*}E. Linate revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemploynent Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Sept. 1

some new work on September schedule. Farm labor trends better than year ago.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlce, Superior -(564 jobseekers, 495 new, 345 men, 219 women). Employment totals at near peek as economic conditions improved after settlement of three lengthy labor disputes. Good agenda of heavy and building con-struction in progress. Lumber manufacturing keeps at good levels, but some letdown evident in woods work. Main street trade and service establishments enjoying increased business of good tourist year. Farm labor demands good with most orders for berry pickers and hay hands.

POLSON—(136 jobseekers, 60 new, 91 men, 45 women). Labor market patterns generally at good levels for the fall season. Two major construction projects will soon be completed with no other substantial work in sight. Upcoming in October, the Christmas tree and potato harvests will provide hundreds of temporary jobs.

SHELBY—(155 jobseekers, 93 new, 115 men, 40 women). Job placements up over last month and last year with most worker demands from trade and service units. Completion of new postoffice building idled some construction workers. Construction of warehouse only major project at present. Farm labor demand reduced considerably by poor crop conditions.

SIDNEY—(55 jobseekers, 65 new, 24 men, 31 women). Construction, lagging for over a year, picked up with the start of a telephone building, a REA substation, a school at Lambert, and a service station. Street repair and gas line replacement also on agenda. Brisk demand for cooks and waitresses during month. Sugar beet harvest to start late September.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(78 jobseekers, 38 new, 56 men, 22 women). August labor demand was chiefly for sawmill and logging employment. Construc-tion activity, including highway projects, river bridge, and small building projects, on schedule. Jobseeker count and unemployment claims at seasonal lows. Farm labor demand nil.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(133 jobseekers, 92 new, 58 men, 75 women). Construction lags behind last year with only small building projects on current schedule. Some increased employment at trade units, notably grain elevators, farm implement firms and cafes. Oil field work up with arrival of three oil exploration crews. Good farm labor demand, a trend to continue through September.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employ-ed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 787 selected Montana establishments.
- released have (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,379 such establishments.
- Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EM	PLOYME	NT	Net Change		
INDUSTRY	Aug. 1962 (2)	July 1962 (3)	Aug. 1961	July '62 to Aug. '62	Aug. '61 to Aug. '62	
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	177,500	176,600	176,600	900	900	
Manufacturing	22,500	22,000	21,400	500	1,100	
Durable goods	15,200	14,500	13,700	700	1,500	
Lumber and timber products	8,400					
Primary metalsOther (4)	3,800 ₁ 3,000 ₁	3,800 2,800				
Nondurable goods	7,300	7,500	7,700	_ 200	— 4 00	
Food and kindred products	4,100					
Printing and publishing Petroleum refining	1,600 ₁ 800]	1,600, 800				
Other (5)	800	800	800			
Mining	7,000 3,900	7, 000 3,900	7,000 4,200			
Metal mining	800	S00	800			
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,300		2,000			
Contract Construction	15,500	15,300	14,800	200	700	
Contractors, building construction	3,600	3,600	3,600			
Contractors, other than building Contractors, special trade	7,200 4,700	7,100 4,600				
Transportation and utilities	18,700	18,700				
Interstate railroads	8,500 4,300	8,500 4,400	8,900 4,300		— 400	
Transportation except railroadsUtilities including communication	5,900					
Trade	41,500	40,900	41,300			
Wholesale trade Retail trade	8,300 33,200	8,200 32,700	8,500 32,800			
General merchandise and apparel	5,900	5,900	6,100			
Food stores	5,100	5,200	5,100			
Eating and drinking establishments	8,900 6,200	8,700 5,900	8,900 6,000			
Automotive and filling stations Retail trade not elsewhere classified	7,100					
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,800	6,900	00	100	
Services and miscellaneous	25,000	24,700	25,400 3,900			
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc Personal services	3,800 2,100	3,800 2,100			-	
Other (6)	19,100	18,800				
Government	40,500	41,200			100	
Federal	12,700	12,800	12,200	- 100		
State and local	27,800	28,400	28,200	600	400	
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,800 4,700	24,700 4,400	23,300 3,100		,	
Manufacturing	3,000	3,300	3,800			
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	, -	
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,800 5,200	5,800 5,100	5,500 4,900	100		
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,000	4,000		00		
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,100	24,200	24,400			
Manufacturing	3,200 1,700	3,200 1,800				
Contract construction	2,900	2,800				
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,500	7,400				
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,500	1,500	1,500	00		
Services and miscellaneous (8)	3,900 3,400	3,900 3,600			- 100 - 100	
		2 13010	3 31/11	- 181		

(C) Includes commercial trade schools, auto re-pair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, med-ical and health, law offices and profes-sional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes finance,

insurance, real estate and mining

(8) Same as (6) above. Also includes mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUG. 1962 AND AUG. 1961

Employment Service Office	Ang		wment New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File			Job Placement					- 1	UI Claim		
Office	arus.	1962	Aug.	1961	Aug.	1962	Aug.	1961		Aug.	1962	.1		Aug.	1961		Wk.	9-7
Ollice	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961
	45		108	12	557	127	297	39	84	31	115	30	347	20	367	111	127	1.50
Anaconda	700	154	851	208	1,619.	283	2,337	416	682	1.363	2,045	310	706	1.139		111 342	427 535	178 682
Hillings	205	36	223	43	177	27	413	93	307	154	461	103	170	103	273	56.	35	103
Bozeman	187	25	233	56	1.376	294	1.197	229	119	14	133	23	953	27	980.	215	701	523
Butte Cut Bank	118	51	110.	40	167	36.	222	32	69	97	166	58	222	73.	295	117	25	36
Dillon	71	24	106	37	44	Q	91	18	76	187	263	125	46	205	251	127	17	31
Glasgow	150	41	107	16	161,	12	317	46	153	153	306	72	104	34	138	43	55	127
Glendive	7.2	Q	- 61	1.2	147	14	109	20	1051	326		26	71	114	185	15.	15	39
Great Falls	749	185	572	112	921	151	1,410	249	755	1,048	1,803	340	730	183	913	342	312	449
Hamilton	40	4	52	- 8	117	13	135		105	307	412	29	1,198	546	1,744	232	46	55
Havre	(10)	10	93,	1.3	75	11	217	30	103	305	468	95	110	70	180	53	49	106
Helena	183	28	157	32	259	/ -	445	116	260	75	335	96	280	69	349	153	111	196
Kalispell	401	85	2021	421	487	114	833	215	343	277	620	162	770	53	823	207	218	258
Lewistown	95	11	86	26	67	9' 10	145 161	35 25	164	276	440	137	232	41	273	101	30	71
Livingston	44	4	102	21	69 96	12	92	10	83° 1231	72	155	35	142	49	191	72	37	59
Miles City	. 86	16 591	87	14	564	79	715	141	317	323 ¹ 124	446 441	62	119	354	473	50	24	71
Missoula	495	4.	282	41.	136	29	101	23	146.	146	292	125	2,150	53 695	2,203	707	202	268
Polson	60 93	27	128	45	155	40	170	33	97	89	186	49	70	111	778 181	243	54	86
Shelby	05	12		8		77	113	18	137	43	180	30	121	34	155	39 31	32	49 31
Sidney	38	10	35	0	78	11	80	20	50	7.7	52	15	45		45	15.		51 56
Thomp Falls Wolf Point	95	16	45	81		21	150	34	37	147	184	47	27	32		14		30 92
TOTALS	4.136	819	3.731	812	7,460	1.381	9,759	1,864	4,315	5,619	0.031	2,016	8,696	4.005	12,701	3,285	3,009	3,566

^{*}Includes 180 claims of the Fed. UC Program 274 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly	Earnings	Averag	e Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings				
INDUSTRY	(Aug.(1) 1962	July(2) 1962	Aug. 1961	(Aug.(1) 1962	July(2) 1962	Aug. 1961	Aug.(1) 1962	July(2) 1962	Aug. 1961		
All Manufacturing	\$ 99.06	\$100.19	\$100.94	40.6	40.4	40.7	\$ 2.44	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.48		
Durable goods Primary metals	98.17 103.48	99.70 104.28	100.44 104.78	40.4 39.8	40,2 39.8	40.5 40.3	2.43 2.60	2.48 2.62	2.48 2.60		
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	104.30 89.73	103.74 85.65	101.84 84.18	42.4 44.2	42.0 42.4	40.9 42.3	2.46 2.03	2.47 2.02	2.49 1.99		
All Mining	118.37	120.06	110.43	43.2	43.5	40.9	2.74	2.76	2.70		
Metal mining	119.85	120.13	114.11	42.5	42.6	41.8	2.82	2.82	2.73		
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	99.36	99.19	101.08))				
Transportation (except railroads)	98.11 100.36	97.55	107.58 96.56	41.3	41.4	40.4	2.43	2.43	2.39		

1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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